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**PATENT APPLICATION**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of

Docket No: Q71182

Kenji SHIMIZU, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/617,822

Group Art Unit: 2651

Confirmation No.: 5227

Examiner: RICKMAN, Holly C.

Filed: July 14, 2003

For: MAGNETIC RECORDING MEDIUM, METHOD OF MANUFACTURING THE SAME,  
AND MAGNETIC RECORDING AND REPRODUCTION APPARATUS

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith, along with a copy of the corresponding Communication from a Foreign Patent Office, except for the following: U.S. patents and/or U.S. patent publications; and co-pending non-provisional U.S. applications filed after June 30, 2003.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (without a Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)) after the later of three months from the application's filing date and the

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

U.S. Appln. No.:

mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before a Final Office Action, Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application (whichever is earlier), and therefore the USPTO is directed and authorized to charge the fee of \$180.00 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) to the Deposit Account.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

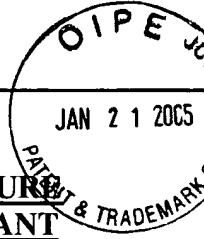
Respectfully submitted,

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Substitute for Form 1449 A & B/PTO		JAN 21 2005 U.S. PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE	Complete if Known	
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>			Application Number	10/617,822
			Confirmation Number	5227
			Filing Date	July 14, 2003
			First Named Inventor	Kenji SHIMIZU
			Art Unit	2651
			Examiner Name	RICKMAN, Holly C.
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number

## **U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

## **FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

## **NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup>Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup>See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov), MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). <sup>4</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup>Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.